

# 'Hush House'

Once inside, you can scream as loud as you want. No one outside will ever hear you.

It's not a nightmare; it's an aircraft engine test facility. Within the insulated Hush House, test facility craftsmen like Staff Sgt. Chad Hancock run engines from idle to afterburner day or night to seek, find and fix problems without the worries of noise pollution.

Sergeant Hancock uses a portable maintenance aid to verify faults on F-15 and F/A-22 engines and to see how to correct the problem step-by-step. But as with most electronic gadgets, it's only as good as the operator handling it. It's a whole new generation of maintenance.

And for this sergeant, it's a childhood passion come to fruition. When he was little he loved taking things apart to see how they worked. So it was no surprise that he asked to work with jet engines when he joined the Air Force. Twelve years later the sergeant is on his way to another stripe and looking forward to many more years working in the field.

"I will retire from the Air Force for sure," he said. "Hopefully the experience I've gained will carry forward into the civilian sector."

by Maj. Kimberly Tebrugge  
photo by Staff Sgt. Tanika Bell

***"Every time I see an F-15 take off in afterburner, [it] still gives me a chill to know I had something to do with that. Now I get the same feeling when I see or hear how awesome the F/A-22 is."***

Staff Sgt. **William "Chad" Hancock**

Test Facility craftsman

1st Component Maintenance Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Number of Airmen in Aerospace Propulsion Jet Engine: 6,085

Years in the Air Force: 12

Hometown: Galax, Va.